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Congressional Document.

MEMORIAL OF HEZEKIAH L. THISTLE,

Praying an appropriation for the construction of a number of wrought-iron cannon, on the plan invented by him.

To the honorable the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in Congress assembled :

The memorial and petition of Hezekiah L. Thistle, late captain of Philadelphia volunteers in Florida, RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH :

That for many years past he has directed his attention to the improvement of small arms and cannon, and after employing much labor, and at his own private expense, has arrived at results that have received very high commendation.

Having invented a mode of constructing wrought-iron cannon, rifled or smooth bore, to load at the muzzle or breech, to throw round shot and shells, and also oblong or conical shot and shells, which has met the approbation of many scientific and talented officers,* and is now anxious that the Government shall profit by the discovery, especially as our fortifications and public ships will require a very large number of cannon, which, it is understood, will be ordered immediately, or within a short period; and as the late improvements in arms for these purposes point to a much larger cannon than those heretofore made, particularly to throw shells horizontally, and it being found that large cannon of brass, if even suited to the object, would be too costly, and that cast-iron will not answer in such large masses as is required, because of the irregular contraction in cooling, which renders the gun defective and unsafe, and being, withal, too costly, from its great weight and expense of transportation—it is confidently believed that cannon made of wrought-iron, in the manner contemplated by your memorialist, would accomplish every desirable end.

It is proper to remark that, from the earliest use of cannon, wrought-iron has uniformly been regarded as the best suited material for their fabrication in all the warlike countries of Europe; but an insuperable difficulty was always found in its application to that use, in the defective welding. All the experiments made by them resulted in the rupture of the gun at the place of welding, the grain or fibre of the iron being there broken; and for that reason this invaluable material has been thrown aside, and wholly lost for such purposes, though in all other respects it is universally admitted to be far superior to any other metal.

Your memorialist, having much experience in working of metals, particularly in the manufacture of cannon and small arms, and having directed his attention long and closely to the defect above-mentioned, has, after great labor and expense, so completely overcome that difficulty, that, by his plan of welding wrought-iron may be safely used in the manufacture of cannon generally, for field service, ships, and fortifications; and its adoption will be recommended by the highest considerations, such as, reduced cost, greater lightness and durability, and much additional effect, &c.

It is obvious that a rifled cannon would be competent to throw a shot or shell a greater distance, with more certainty of aim, and with increased effect, over the cannon now in use, of whatever metal; and it is equally obvious, that wrought-iron is the only metal that admits of such application; and when to these great advantages are superadded lightness, cheapness,

durability, and safety, a series of benefits are presented, that seem to claim the attention and the confidence of the Government.

Your memorialist will not attempt to show, in detail, the many advantages which would result from the use of wrought-iron in the fabrication of cannon, some of which will suggest themselves; and will at present, by way of example, only contrast the weight and cost of a 12-pounder gun made of brass, with a like sized cannon made of wrought-iron :

By referring to the official report of the Ordnance department of January 26, 1839 (Senate docs., vol. 3, of 3d session, 25th Congress, doc. No. 160, page 2,) it will be seen, that—

A brass 12-pounder weighs 1,805 lbs., and cost 61½ cents per pound, equal to	\$1,116 93
While a 12-pounder of wrought-iron, such as your memorialist proposes to make, will weigh only 1,200 lbs., and will cost (after the works are established) not more than 30 cents per pound—equal to	360 00

Difference	756 93
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Thus showing a clear saving of \$756 93 in each gun, being nearly 68 per cent. in favor of wrought-iron; and a further saving would be found in the transportation, the weight being one-third less than even brass guns; and the durability would be in the proportion of two or three to one, in favor of wrought iron; and for ship use, the advantage is even more striking.

In order that the Government may profit by the invention and services of your memorialist, and that their merits may be adequately and safely demonstrated, he respectfully suggests the propriety of a provision being made in some one of the appropriation bills now pending before your honorable bodies, to the amount of \$10,000, to be expended under the direction of the Secretary of War, in the construction of a rifled or smooth bore wrought-iron cannon, as he shall elect.

And as in duty bound, your memorialist will ever pray.

H. L. THISTLE.

WASHINGTON, June 16, 1840.

A.

WASHINGTON ARSENAL, Dec. 9, 1838.

DEAR SIR: I have received your note of yesterday, asking for a statement of the views entertained by me, when, in the line of my duty, some months since, I presented to the honorable Secretary of War an application from you for authority to manufacture a wrought-iron cannon.

Though I do not precisely see the reason or scope of this inquiry, yet, as you say, in speaking of yourself and the Secretary, "his whole conduct to me has commanded my confidence, respect, and gratitude," and as there cannot, in my mind, be a shade of impropriety in acceding to your request, I therefore do so at once, and with pleasure.

In Europe as in this country, the defects of the two metals, brass and cast-iron, always used in the material of cannon, had been long observed. It was perceived by artillerists, that the first of these, having the required tenacity to present a due resistance to the action of gunpowder, was yet greatly deficient in the two other necessary qualities of hardness and strength; and that the latter (cast-iron,) though sufficient in hardness, was very deficient in the two other most material qualities of tenacity and strength; so that the unavoidable consequence of these defects of the metals in use, was the much greater additional weight

* See exhibit, marked A.

in brass and cast-iron cannon, than would have been necessary if the three qualities of *tenacity*, *strength*, and *hardness*, had been combined in greater perfection; and thus, the great objects of mobility and celerity in field-artillery were not obtainable to the extent desired. The batteries moved slowly and heavily, in consequence of the weight of the cannon; and every increase in celerity, so important in war, was only attainable at the expense of the strength of the cannon. But this was not all; the defects of these metals could not be remedied even by the great additional weight given to the guns; for the bores of brass cannon, fired rapidly in warm seasons or climates, are soon ruined by the lodgement of the shot, which destroy all accuracy in firing, while their vents are also enlarged and ruined. And the cast-iron cannon, though they preserve their bores admirably while they last, and their vents tolerably, yet they *will burst*; and as, from their brittleness, they may fly into a thousand pieces, they often kill many men. But these burstings are not only terrible, but impossible to be foreseen, when they happen; and as they give no warning of the event, they thus destroy the confidence of the soldier in this weapon of war.

Artillerists who had seen the above enumerated defects in field-artillery, saw very clearly that there was but one known metal which could afford to cannon the necessary lightness, strength, and durability, and that that was wrought-iron, in which there was nearly the same hardness as in cast-iron, much greater strength, and incomparably greater tenacity. They saw, too, that it had an equal superiority over brass, having much greater strength, tenacity, and hardness; and, accordingly, the attempt to make field cannon of wrought-iron in Europe and in this country, has been frequently made, but always with ill success, the efforts of the experimenters having been always fruitless in practical results. They were fruitless (when attempts were made to sheathe with this metal the bores of brass cannon) principally in consequence of the different degrees of expansion of the two metals, when the guns were heated by firing, joined to the difficulty of giving due resistance and solidity to such a structure, subject to such powerful action. And when the gun was made entirely of wrought-iron, the failure arose, principally, from the unavoidably imperfect weldings in the large masses of iron necessary to be used; so that these imperfect weldings, or flaws, were burst open by the action of gunpowder. But it was observed, in addition, that the due exactness of the bore with respect to the exterior dimensions (so necessary in pointing,) and the geometrical form of the exterior itself, were alike unattainable.

When, therefore, I heard that you had triumphed over these obstacles, and made a small wrought-iron cannon, of every necessary geometrical exactness, joined with great strength, and an astonishing small thickness of metal (three-fourths of an inch,) which, too, had sustained, uninjured, much heavy firing, I felt a sensible pleasure at the prospect, that this long agitated artillery problem might at length be solved, and our artillery, in consequence, greatly improved. I did not, indeed, look at the advantages or disadvantages of loading particularly at the breech, confident, as I was, that if the gun could be made at all, it could be made according to that, or the old principle of construction, and that either might be adopted, as ulterior experiments should dictate.

Whether, therefore, the wrought-iron gun were made with a closed breech, as at present used, with an opening and closing ore, so as to allow of loading and sponging at the breech; or with a breech moveable upon a pivot, after the manner of some small arms, appeared to me a matter of little consequence in the first experiments; since, in the success of any one of the three cases, the problem would be equally solved, affording a wrought-iron cannon of geometrical form, capable of resisting the explosion of artillery, and of loading at the muzzle in the ordinary

manner; for the mere capacity of loading at the breech could not, evidently, of itself, be an objection, if it did not interfere with the loading at the muzzle in the ordinary manner.

I did not think that the probable expense of these cannon, when furnished in large quantities to the Government, or the advantages or disadvantages of loading at the breech, were questions which ought to be permitted to complicate the experiment, already sufficiently difficult; especially as their decision could be much more appropriately reserved for a period of wider information and maturer views, the natural consequence of preceding experiments.

And as you, at your own expense, had accomplished more in this matter than any other person, having, indeed, succeeded as far as you had gone; manifesting an ardor, a constancy, and firmness of purpose, as I thought quite unusual, I thought you the fittest person to be intrusted with the conduct of any experiments, which the admitted importance of the subject might suggest to the Government. And these, sir, were the reasons that influenced me (at that time a stranger to you,) when in the regular course of business I presented your papers to the honorable Secretary, whose views were, as I thought, decidedly strong, liberal, and thoroughly enlightened upon the subject.

With much respect, I am, sir, your most obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. BELI,

Captain of Ordnance.

Captain H. L. THISTLE,

Washington, D. C.

MISCELLANY.

Reported for the Public Ledger.

NAVAL GENERAL COURT MARTIAL, AT PHILADELPHIA.

TRIAL OF COMMODORE ELLIOTT.

MONDAY, June 15.—The court met, pursuant to adjournment on Saturday. Present all its members, the Judge Advocate, and Com. Elliott. The proceedings of Saturday were read.

Washington P. Craig, called by the accused and sworn.—I am a native of Boston, am 37 years of age, and am a member of the bar in my native city; I am also one of the clerks of the senate of Massachusetts. I have known Mr. Thomas Wells and his acquaintances for 12 or 14 years, more or less; I have never known that his character was questioned for truth and veracity, until within a few weeks, by some testimony which I have read in a newspaper, and which I understood was given before this court. I certainly should believe him on his oath.

Cross-examined by the Judge Advocate.—I do not know where he was from the year 1834 to Sept. 1838. I expect he may have been on board the Constitution; I so understood. I missed him from Boston, whether it was during the time mentioned, or not, I cannot say; I have no distinct recollection that I saw him during that time.

Israel Pemberton Hutchinson, recalled by the accused.—I know Mr. Thomas Wells; I first knew him in Lisbon, in January, 1837, while the Constitution was there, and I have met him in this country several times since. I always believed Mr. Wells to be a gentleman of veracity; he always conducted himself as such while at Lisbon. I saw more of him in Lisbon, in consequence of an intimacy I had with his brother, than at any other time; I had a good deal to do with him while there; I never heard a question raised as to his veracity, until I heard it upon this trial. I certainly should believe him on his oath.

Cross-examined by the Judge Advocate.—The Constitution remained at Lisbon about six weeks, though I do not recollect exactly. I saw Mr. Wells after the Constitution left Lisbon, in this city, during the sit-

ting of the court of inquiry, then in the city of New York, and again in this city; I have met him several times, though how often I cannot say. The first time that I met with him, after having parted with him at Lisbon, was during the sitting of the court of inquiry in this city, in the spring of last year.

Lieut. Henry Pinkney, called by the accused and sworn.—I am a lieutenant of the navy, and am on leave of absence. I know Mr. Thomas Wells; I was about two years in the same squadron, and one year in the same ship with him, on board the Potomac. I never heard his character for truth and veracity questioned during the time we were together in the squadron, and never until very lately. From my knowledge of his character, I have no reason to disbelieve him on his oath.

Cross-examined by the Judge Advocate.—I left the Mediterranean in October, 1836, in the Potomac; I was in that ship during the whole cruise; Mr. Wells was schoolmaster on board the Potomac, and left her in October, 1835.

Direct by the accused.—When I say that I never heard the character of Mr. Wells questioned for veracity until very lately, I mean to say that I never have until the sitting of this court.

Joseph M. Sanderson, called by the accused and affirmed.—I am a resident of this city and proprietor of the Merchants' Hotel, and am on the north side of 43 years of age; I know Mr. Thomas Wells, who has been residing at my house for some several weeks; I have not been personally acquainted with him for any great length of time, though I have been intimately acquainted with his brother, Samuel Adams Wells, for several years. Mr. Thomas Wells came to my house at the commencement of this court martial, perhaps a few days before, bearing a letter from an intimate friend in Boston; I never heard his character for truth and veracity questioned. The gentleman from whom he bore letters was a man whom I respect highly, and one whom I am sure would not associate with other than a man of respectability. His acquaintances, since his stay at my house, have been men of whose company I am proud; they were some of our most respectable citizens. I never heard his character for veracity questioned by any one, and from my knowledge of it I would believe him on his oath, or on his word, as soon as any man. I have had good opportunity of learning his character, he having been very sick at my house, during which time I spent much of my time with him, and had good opportunity of at least forming an opinion of his character. Dr. John K. Mitchell was his attending physician while sick at my house.

Jesse E. Dow, recalled by the accused.—I became acquainted with Mr. Wells in 1831, at Boston, and have known him ever since; I had repeated opportunities of forming an opinion as to his character for truth and veracity—it is good, and I never heard it questioned until the sitting of this court; from my knowledge of his character, I would believe him on his oath.

Cross-examined by the Judge Advocate.—I left the Constitution at Lisbon, on the 4th of April, 1836, and did not return to the Mediterranean during the cruise of the Constitution. I know nothing of Mr. Wells's character after I left the ship; I knew him before, and have known him since, and never heard it spoken unfavorably of by any one; he was spoken very highly of when the Potomac came into Mahon, by the officers.

James F. Howe, called by the accused and sworn.—I reside in Philadelphia, and my business is that of a stock broker. I know Thomas Wells, and have since 1826; I first became acquainted with him at Boston; I never heard his character for veracity questioned by any one until yesterday. From my knowledge of his character, I should most certainly believe him on his oath.

Cross-examined by the Judge Advocate.—I left Boston

as a residence in 1831; since then I have resided in Philadelphia.

George O. Bartlett, called by the accused and sworn.—I reside in Boston, and am a bookseller; I have known Thomas Wells personally about two years, by character much longer; I have had opportunity of knowing his character for truth and veracity, and never heard it assailed by any one until I read the proceedings of this court; I have favorably known him through my personal friends, and by men whom I have esteemed very highly for a long time, and would believe him on his oath as soon as any man that I know.

Cross-examined by the Judge Advocate.—I am not engaged in publishing a work of Mr. Wells's, and never did publish any thing for him.

Eppes Surgeant, called by the accused and sworn.—I reside in New York, my occupation is that of an editor, and I am twenty-six years of age; I received a subpoena to attend this court, dated 8th June, on the 11th; I know Mr. Thomas Wells, and have for twenty years; he married a cousin to my father, and I became acquainted with him through that connexion; my opportunities for becoming acquainted with his character for truth and veracity were no greater than that afforded by the natural intercourse, which some years back was very frequent; I never heard it questioned until during this trial; I would believe him on his oath most implicitly.

Cross-examined by the Judge Advocate.—His second wife was cousin to my father; I think his wife resided at South Carolina during Mr. Wells's absence in the Mediterranean.

Edward D. Clark, called by the accused and sworn.—I reside in Boston, am an auctioneer and commission merchant, and aged forty-two; I know one Mr. Thomas Wells, the same who, I believe, was a witness before this court, and have for about 15 years; I have had opportunities of forming an opinion as to his character for truth and veracity, and never heard it impeached until I heard it assailed before this court; it always stood very fair, so far as my knowledge extends; from my knowledge of his character, I would believe him on his oath.

Mr. Dallas, on behalf of the accused, here stated that process had been issued for eight other witnesses, from whom nothing had been heard, but that he would not ask the court for further time, and would now conclude the oral testimony on behalf of the defence.

An order from the department, from under the hand of the Hon. Mahlon Dickerson, directed to Commodore Elliott, appointing him to the command of the Mediterranean squadron, was offered by Mr. Dallas, read, and annexed to the record—as was also a letter from Com. Daniel T. Patterson, dated on board the ship of the line Delaware, lying at Mahon, to Com. Elliott, resigning to the latter officer his command in those seas, and handing over to him the orders and instructions which he had received from the department for his guidance and government during his continuance in command.

Mr. Dallas then offered a *private* letter from the Secretary of the Navy to Com. Elliott, accompanied with a special permit from the writer, since obtained, to make it public—and asked that the same might be read and annexed to the record. This letter, there was some reason to believe, had reference to the famous "figure-head" case, that caused so much noise at Boston and throughout the country during the ever-memorable panic season of 1833 and 1834—though of this, it not being read, of course nothing is to be said positive. Let it have been what it may, the Judge Advocate was unwilling, he said, to take the responsibility of reading and annexing it to the record, as he had the two previously offered. Whereupon the court was cleared that its judgment might be had in the premises, and after time for mature deliberation, it was opened, and its decision, as an-

nounced by the Judge Advocate, was against the reading of the letter and the request of the accused that it be placed upon the record.

The evidence having been concluded, as well for as against the accused, time was given Mr. Dallas until Saturday next, at 11 o'clock, to prepare his defence, at which time that gentleman stated he should, he thought, beyond question, have it ready to read to the court.

The court, in the interim, will, in accordance with the requirements of law, daily meet at ten o'clock, and forthwith adjourn.

[It has already been announced that the court adjourned *sine die*, on Monday, the 22d June. In our next we shall publish the sentence of the court.—*Ed. A. & N. C.*]

U. S. MILITARY ACADEMY.

[*Extract from Park's Sketch of West Point.*]

We proceed finally to state the recent objections which have been made to the Military Academy, and to offer a brief reply. On the 26th of November, 1833, the Legislature of Tennessee passed resolutions in favor of abolishing the Academy; saying, "a few young men, sons of distinguished and wealthy families, through the intervention of members of Congress, are educated at this institution at the expense of the great body of the American people, which entitle them to privileges, and elevate them above their fellow-citizens, who have not been so fortunate as to be educated under the patronage of this aristocratical institution." On the 3d of March, 1834, similar resolutions were passed by the Legislature of Ohio, saying that the Academy "is partial in its operations, and wholly inconsistent with the spirit and genius of our liberal institutions." It was in reply to these resolutions, that an able report was made to the House of Representatives, May 17th, 1834, by Colonel Richard M. Johnson, as Chairman of the Committee on Military Affairs; vindicating the institution against these charges, showing how fully it has been approved by all our leading statesmen, from Washington downwards, and how substantially it has repaid the country for her maternal care and support. But this institution was destined to pass another ordeal, when, on the 1st of March, 1837, a virulent report against it was presented to the House of Representatives, by the Honorable F. O. J. Smith, of Maine, Chairman of the Select Committee of Nine, appointed to investigate the condition of the United States Military Academy. This report concluded by recommending the abolition of the Academy, and the establishment of a School of Practice in its stead; for reasons which it is our present purpose to examine.

It is objected that the cadets at the Academy are not a part of the efficient force of the army. In denial of this assertion, we may quote the very language of the law of 1812, as quoted by Mr. Wirt, in proving the cadets are subject to do duty, whenever the President shall direct; and they would at any time be fit and ready for duty, even on the battle-field, like the youthful Polytechnists of Paris, did occasion require it. If they are not an efficient part of the army, it is in the same sense that soldiers newly recruited, or citizen officers newly appointed, are not efficient, until they have acquired the requisite knowledge and experience. If the number of cadets were more than the public service requires, as has been objected, the remedy would be to reduce the academy, not to destroy it; but this objection does not at present hold good, in point of fact. The objection that the graduates are not under obligation to continue in the service, was obviated in a reasonable degree by the law of July 5th, 1833, requiring them to serve four years after graduating; and if this be not sufficient, it rests with Congress to extend the period of service, as far as the nation may see fit to require.

The objection most relied on, against educating the cadets at the public expense, would apply equally against instructing recruits of any grade, or paying them any thing until they should be thoroughly drilled and completely efficient. This answers also the constitutional objection against the right of Congress to establish a seminary of education. The cadets are not merely students, but a grade of officers on duty, as much so as if they were dispersed through all the posts and garrisons; but learning that duty ten times as well as they could thus learn it, and at much less expense than if instructed after being commissioned as lieutenants, when their pay would be more than twice as great. They learn it too far more thoroughly and uniformly than if taught at private schools, military or civil, as the result of more than one rival institution abundantly testifies. No fewer than *thirty-one* gentlemen, all but six of whom are graduates of the Academy, are employed in instructing two hundred and sixty cadets. What other institution in our country could present any thing like the same amount of suitable instruction to candidates for army promotion?

This introduces another objection, that the expense of educating the cadets is exorbitant, especially as compared with the expenses at our best colleges. In answer to this, we have only to state, that the current expenses of the institution, including the pay and rations of the cadets, amount to about \$100,000; and dividing this sum by 250, the average number of cadets, we have the annual expense of each cadet, equal to \$400 per annum; which, contrasted with college expenses for travelling, boarding, tuition, fuel, books, and clothing, is we think by no means unfavorable to the Military Academy, considering the number and qualifications of its instructors. We may add, that this expense is far less than would be that of the scheme recommended by the Hon. Mr. Smith, of ordering nearly one third of the company officers of the army to West Point, when converted into a School of Practice; especially as those officers would not then be a part of the efficient force of the army, as the phrase is understood by Mr. Smith. But what are a few dollars, more or less, compared with the importance of having a body of select and thoroughly educated officers, to take the command of our armies, and direct our fortifications and national improvements?

The objection that only the sons of influential and wealthy men are admitted to the Academy, is far from being true; but even were it the case, the fault would be not in the Academy, but in those who are vested with the power of making the appointments thereto. Hence it would not be remedied by abolishing the Academy; since the Executive would then appoint as lieutenants those who are now appointed as cadets; or rather, it would appoint a more favored class of young men, already tolerably educated. As regards the Academy itself, even its most violent opponents, on the successive Boards of Visitors, have admitted that nothing could be more just and impartial than its awards of academic honors and censures. It is not strange that many of those who are discharged should find fault with its strictness; but it is surely just that the country should select those who are deemed best qualified, and not be required to educate and commission all who may be admitted on the recommendation of partial friends. Though they may possess latent talents, and may afterwards distinguish themselves, still the Academic Staff must judge them by their present industry and acquirements, without waiting for the future.

Much has been said against the moral tendency of the education acquired at West Point, but we think with great injustice. The argument drawn from the conduct-rolls is perfectly futile; where to appear on parade with a rusty gun lock, is charged, and properly so, as a military crime. We appeal with confidence to the subsequent career of a great majority of the graduates, as disproving this charge; and we assert

that since the Academy became settled under the present régime, there have been fewer disturbances there than at our colleges, generally speaking. But in strictness, the comparison should be made not with the character of our colleges, but with the character which young officers would be likely to acquire without an education at the Academy; and in this point of view, the result need not be stated.

Another of the objections is, that the graduates of the Military Academy, being entitled to precedence in filling vacancies in the army, all citizens above the age of twenty-one are virtually almost excluded from entering the service, and that no inducement is left for the general acquisition of military knowledge, "nor for the institution of military schools," elsewhere.* But allowing that fifty appointments are to be made annually in the army; we ask how many private military schools this inducement would foster and support? or if only one or two, we ask in what respect these would be preferable to the National Academy; and whether the appointment of graduates from such institutions, who would necessarily be sons only of the wealthy, would not be an act of greater favoritism than that which has been unjustly urged against West Point?

It is said that the commanders of our army in cases of emergency, will be men inspired with military genius and energy springing up with the occasion, and not the graduates of the Military Academy. But we ask who will be more likely to be thus inspired, than those who voluntarily sought the profession of arms in their youth, and have devoted their lives to its acquirement? It is still more strongly urged that the militia of our country will not submit to be commanded by these graduates, and that either they will refuse to enlist, "or the earliest discharges of their musketry will be to rid themselves of their obnoxious commanders, and to devote the duty of command upon some more congenial comrade."† Can such be the language of an American citizen, and member of Congress? Is it justified in the least degree by facts? Take, for instance, the Florida war. If there has been any fault in its management, it should be remembered that the chief commanders there were heroes of the war of 1812, but not graduates of the Academy. Has there been any collision between the militia and the officers from West Point, in all this trying service? We believe none, absolutely none; but on the contrary, entire harmony and respect. Far be it from us, however, to disparage the merits of the commanders in Florida, who, we sincerely believe, have done all that was in their power, with the means and materials afforded them, to terminate that harassing war, if war it deserves to be called. But we can by no means believe that an officer who receives a regular military education, thereby forfeits the confidence or sympathies of his fellow-citizens of the militia. As to the privileges which the graduates are accused of possessing, we know of none but that of serving their country in the army, and receiving a superior education to fit them for this service.

The last objection which we have been enabled to discover, and the one which remains to be noticed is, that the academy has failed to accomplish the objects for which it was established; and therefore should be abolished. An attempt is made to prove this by a reference to General Bernard and Colonel McRee's statement, in 1819, that the "school at West Point has hitherto been very inferior as such, and altogether inadequate to the objects for which it was established." But their further statement, that "A project has been presented, to place this school upon the footing of the most perfect of the kind that exists," the objector has not seen fit to notice. Their object was to recommend the establishment of a School of Practice, not as a substitute for the academy, but as a supplement to it; to perfect the knowledge therein acquired. In time of peace, when the young officers the troops be dispersed by companies, a school of practice is doubtless highly desirable, and even necessary; but in time of war, when armies are wanted in the field, they are the only school of practice then needed. If such a school be an elementary one, it is only a military academy under another name; but this was not the idea of General Bernard and Colonel McRee, who intended that it should bear the same relation to the West Point Academy, that the French School of Practice at Metz bears to the Polytechnic School.

Turning from authorities on this point, we appeal to facts, in proof of the efficiency and utility of the Military Academy. The whole number of graduates prior to the year 1813, was only 88; and of this number no fewer than eleven were breveted, during the war of 1812, for distinguished services, five of whom are at present colonels or lieutenant-colonels in the army. Of the corps of engineers during that war, all those commissioned prior to 1812, including all the higher officers, were graduates of the Academy. "Not to speak of others, it was McRee, who on the field of Bridgewater suggested the expediency of that perilous but well-timed order, whose successful execution," [by the gallant Miller,] "turned the tide of battle;—and to him and to Wood, who fell at the head of his column in the sortie from Fort Erie—may justly be ascribed much of the glory of that memorable campaign."‡ We believe that the first successful sortie of an American garrison against a besieging army, was that of Fort Erie, and that this was first suggested and planned by Colonel Wood, who fell so bravely during its successful execution. Captain Ketchum, who captured the British General Ryall, at the battle of Bridgewater, was also a graduate of the Military Academy. We may also add, that the success of the battle of Plattsburg was due, in no small degree, to the skillful and energetic efforts of Colonel Totten, in fortifying the banks of the Saranac, while awaiting the enemy; General Macomb, the commander-in-chief, having also been one of the first students of the Academy. Colonel Thayer's successful arrangements for the defence of Norfolk, have already been referred to, but should here be recalled to mind. Of the first eighty-eight graduates, nine fell in battle during the war of 1812; eight of whom are not included among the brevets already mentioned. Brevet Lieutenant Colonel Eleazer D. Wood, of the engineers, Colonel James Gibson, of the rifle regiment, and Captain Alexander J. Williams, of the artillery, fell at Fort Erie, in 1814; the latter we believe at the assault by which it was taken from the British, and the two former at the sortie by which it was afterwards successfully defended. Lieutenant Samuel B. Rathbone fell at Queenston Heights, in 1812; Lieutenant Henry A. Hobart, at Fort George, in 1813; Lieutenant George Ronan, at Chicago, in 1812; Lieutenants Henry Burchstead and Joseph N. Wilcox, at Fort Mimms, in 1812; and Lieutenant William W. Smith, at Christler's Farm, in 1813.

The whole number of graduates of the Military Academy, from its first establishment to 1840, inclusive, is 1053; of whom, according to the last official register, 396 remain in the military service, besides the graduating class of 1840. If to these be added the graduates now in the civil service of the United States, as engineers or assistants on the fortifications, coast survey, and improvement of rivers and harbors, it will be found that there still remains in the public service nearly one half of all the graduates of the Military Academy, at the end of forty years from its first establishment; while no fewer than one hundred and seventy-four of the remainder have died in service or been killed in battle. When it is added that the ap-

* Mr. Smith's Report, p. 30.

† Mr. Smith's Report, p. 28.

‡ Hon. Mr. Butler's Address, p. 27.

pointments in the two regiments of dragoons were mostly conferred on citizens, thereby disappointing reasonable hopes of promotion, and introducing many citizens into the service, the fact that about two thirds of all the officers now in the army, the whole number of which, exclusive of the medical, pay, and purchasing departments, is six hundred and thirty, are graduates of the Military Academy, is alone a proof, we think, that this institution has not failed of its object. "Our whole army," says Colonel Johnson, in his report, "possesses now far more of the public respect and confidence than it did not many years since. It is the great distinction of the Academy at West Point, that it has contributed largely and effectually to this elevation of the character of the military establishment." More might be quoted, and from various sources, in praise of this institution; but we forbear.

In the Florida war, out of fifteen officers killed in battle, ten were graduates of the Military Academy. Captain George W. Gardiner, and Lieutenants William E. Basinger, Robert R. Mudge, Richard Henderson, and John L. Keais, all of the artillery, fell together at the bravely fought, but unfortunate battle in which Major Dade's command was slain, December 28th, 1835. Lieutenant James F. Izard, of the dragoons, was mortally wounded when in command of the advanced guard of General Gaines's army, near the Withlacoochee river, February 29th, 1836. Lieutenant-Colonel Alexander R. Thompson, Captain Joseph Van Swearingen, and Lieutenants Francis J. Brooke and John P. Center, all of the infantry, fell at the victorious battle of Okeechobee, December 25th, 1837. Captain Samuel L. Russell, and Lieutenant W. Hulbert, both of the infantry, were killed by the Indians in 1839; the former near Fort Dallas, on the 28th of February, and the latter at Mile Creek, on the 2d of May. But the officers killed in battle are only a small portion of those who have been sacrificed, through sickness from exposure, fatigue, or privation, during this unfortunate war. In the words of a distinguished senator, on the floor of Congress, "Officers and men have fought it out where they were told to fight; they have been killed in the tracks where they were told to stand. In no one of our Indian wars have our troops so stood together, and conquered together, and died together, as they have done in this one; and this standing together is the test of the soldier's character." Witness the dying words of Basinger, "*I am the last officer left—men! we will do the best we can*;"—and of the gallant Thompson, "*Keep steady, men! Charge the hammock! Remember the regiment to which you belong!*"* If these are indications of inefficiency in the graduates of the Military Academy, we have nothing more to offer in their behalf.

* See Lieut. Alvord's address, p. 49, 50.

Laws of the United States.

[PUBLIC No. 28.]

AN ACT to provide for the support of the Military Academy for the year eighteen hundred and forty.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the following sums be, and the same are hereby, appropriated, to be paid out of any money in the Treasury, not otherwise appropriated, for the support of the Military Academy for the year 1840, viz.

- For pay of officers, cadets, and musicians, \$59,228.
- For subsistence of officers and cadets, \$40,004.
- For forage of officers' horses, \$3,936.
- For clothing of officers' servants, \$390.
- For defraying the expenses of the Board of Visitors at West Point, \$2,000.
- For fuel, forage, stationery, printing, transportation and postage, \$12,931 45.
- For repairs, improvements, and expenses of buildings, grounds, roads, wharves, boats and fences, \$7,757 50.
- For pay of adjutant's and disbursing officers' clerks, \$980.

For increase and expenses of the library, \$1,000.

For binding books, injured at the fire in February, 1838, and imported stitched, \$300.

For miscellaneous items and incidental expenses, \$726 25.

For the department of engineering, \$500.

For the department of philosophy, \$715 25.

For the department of chemistry, \$724 75.

For the department of drawing, \$338 75.

For the department of tactics, \$240.

For the department of artillery, \$310.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That the commander of the corps of cadets at the Military Academy, shall be either the instructor of infantry tactics, of cavalry and artillery tactics, or of practical engineering, and that his pay and emoluments shall in no case be less than the compensation allowed by law to the professor of mathematics; and that the pay and emoluments of the instructors in these branches shall in no case be less than is allowed by law to the assistant professor of mathematics.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That the assistant professors of ethics shall be allowed the same compensation as is now allowed by law to the other assistant professors in the institution.

APPROVED, July 20th, 1840.

[PUBLIC—No. 29.]

AN ACT making appropriations for the support of the army for the year one thousand eight hundred and forty.

Be it enacted, &c. That the following sums be, and the same are hereby, appropriated, to be paid out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the support of the army during the year 1840, viz.

For the pay of the army \$1,172,028.

For subsistence of officers, \$514,489.

For forage of officers' horses, \$114,571.

For payments in lieu of clothing not drawn in kind, \$80,030.

For subsistence, exclusive of that of officers, \$515,492.

For clothing of the army, camp and garrison equipage, cooking utensils and hospital furniture, \$425,635 67.

For the medical and hospital department, \$38,000.

For the regular supplies furnished by the Quartermaster's department, consisting of fuel, forage, straw, stationery, and printing, \$271,000.

For barracks, quarters, and storehouses, embracing the repairs and enlargement of barracks, quarters, storehouses, and hospitals at the several posts; the erection of temporary cantonments and gun-houses for the protection of the cannon at the forts on the seaboard; for the purchase of necessary tools and materials, and of the authorized furniture for the barrack rooms; rent of quarters for officers; of barracks for troops where there are no public buildings for their accommodation; of storehouses for the safekeeping of subsistence, clothing and other military supplies, and of grounds for summer cantonments, encampments, and military practice, \$173,000.

For transportation of officers' baggage when traveling on duty without troops, \$65,000.

For transportation of troops and supplies, viz: transportation of the army, including the baggage of troops; freight and ferriages; purchase or hire of horses, mules, oxen, carts, wagons, and boats for the purpose of transportation or for garrison use; drayage and cartage at the several posts; hire of teamsters; transportation of funds for the pay department; expense of transport vessels, and of procuring water at such posts as from their situation require it; transportation of clothing from the depot at Philadelphia to the stations of the troops, of subsistence from the places of purchase and delivery under contract to such points as the circumstances of the service may require; of ordnance, ordnance stores, and arms, from the foundries and arsenals to the fortifications and frontier posts, and of lead from the mines to the several arsenals, \$287,000.

For the incidental expenses of the Quartermaster's department, consisting of postage on public letters and packets, expenses of courts martial and courts of in-

quity, including the compensation of judges advocate, members and witnesses; extra pay to soldiers under act of March 2d, 1819; expenses of expresses from the frontier posts; of the necessary articles for the interment of non-commissioned officers and soldiers; hire of laborers, compensation of clerks in the offices of quartermasters and assistant quartermasters at posts where their duties cannot be performed without such aid, and to temporary agents in charge of dismantled works, and in the performance of other duties; expenditures necessary to keep the two regiments of dragoons complete, including the purchase of horses, to supply the place of those which may be lost and become unfit for service, and the erection of the necessary stables, \$121,000.

For contingencies of the army, \$7,000.

For extra pay to re-enlisted soldiers, and for contingent expenses of the recruiting service, \$47,163 27.

For the national armories, \$360,000.

For the armament of the fortifications, \$150,000.

For the current expenses of the ordnance service, \$100,000.

For ordnance, ordnance stores and supplies, \$100,000.

For arsenals, \$150,000.

For repairs and improvements at the Springfield armory, \$10,500.

For repairs and improvements at the Harper's Ferry armory, \$50,000.

For the purchase of saltpetre and brimstone, \$40,000.

For the expense of preparing drawings of a uniform system of artillery, and for other supplies in the ordnance department, \$3,000.

For continuing the barracks, quarters, &c., at Fort Leavenworth, \$30,000.

For continuing the barracks, quarters, &c., at Fort Wayne, \$20,000.

For continuing the barracks, quarters, &c., at Fort Smith, \$50,000.

For continuing the barracks, quarters, &c., at Plattsburg, \$20,000.

For continuing the barracks, quarters, &c., at Fort Jessup, \$10,000.

For repairs of arsenals damaged by storms and fire, the sum of \$19,765; for preventing and suppressing hostilities in Florida, to be expended under the direction of the Secretary of War, conformably to the acts of Congress of the 19th of March, and the 2d July, 1836, and the acts therein referred to, viz. For forage for the horses of the mounted volunteers and militia, and for the horses, mules and oxen in the service of the trains; for freight or transportation of military supplies of every description, from the places of purchase to Florida; for the purchase of wagons, harness, boats and lighters, and other vessels, of horses, mules, and oxen to keep up the trains, tools, leather and other materials for repairs, transportation within Florida, including the hire of steamboats and other vessels for service in the rivers and on the coasts, and the expenses of maintaining the several steamboats and transport schooners connected with the operations of the army, hire of mechanics, laborers, mule drivers, teamsters and other assistants, including their subsistence; for miscellaneous and contingent charges and for arrearages in 1835, 1836, 1837, 1838, 1839, and 1840, \$300,000. For an outfit for a Charge d'Affaires to the Republic of Texas, \$4,500. For repairing the roof to the public store at the custom house in the city of Philadelphia, or for new roofing the same with copper, as shall be directed by the Secretary of the Treasury, after causing careful surveys of the condition of the said building to be made, a sum not to exceed \$3,200. For the pay of the commissioner appointed by the Governor of the Territory of Iowa to act on the part of that Territory, in conjunction with the commissioner appointed by the United States, in ascertaining, running and marking the southern boundary line of the said Territory, in conformity with the act of Congress of the 18th of June, 1838, the sum of \$1,096. For the payment of expenses incurred under the direction of the Joint Committee on the Library, in the erection of shelves and book cases in the committee rooms of the Capitol, for the reception of books and documents to be transferred from the Library to the several committee rooms, a sum not to exceed \$1,250.

For the purpose of enabling the Secretaries of the War and Navy Departments to place in a state of safe preservation the specimens of natural history which are now deposited in their respective offices, or which may be brought there, resulting from surveys of the unexplored portions of our own country, or from the exploring expedition now in the south seas, by the authority, and at the expense of the United States, or otherwise, a sum not to exceed \$500.

Sec. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That the sum of \$3,000, appropriated by the act of Congress of the 12th of June, 1838, to ascertain and designate the boundary line between the State of Michigan and the Territory of Wisconsin be, and the same is hereby, re-appropriated, to be expended under the direction of the Secretary of War for the accomplishment of the same object.

Sec. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That in case of a deficiency of receipts of revenue from customs, or other sources, or of a failure on the part of the late deposit banks, or of the Bank of the United States of Pennsylvania, to pay the debts due from them or to become due in the course of the present year, or if, from any other cause, the means of the treasury shall not be sufficient to meet all the appropriations made by Congress, the President of the United States shall be, and he is hereby, authorized to postpone the expenditures under the following heads of appropriation embraced in this act, viz. "for barracks, quarters, and store-houses," &c.; "for the national armories;" "for armament of fortifications;" "for the current expenses of the ordnance service;" "for ordnance, stores, and supplies;" "for arsenals;" "for repairs and improvements at the Springfield armory;" "for repairs and improvements at the Harper's Ferry armory;" "for the purchase of saltpetre and brimstone;" "for continuing the barracks, quarters, &c. at Fort Leavenworth," "at Fort Wayne;" "at Fort Smith;" "at Plattsburg;" and "at Fort Jessup;" or such or so many of them, or such proportions of each, as in his judgment, after careful examination and inquiry, the condition of the treasury shall demand, and the public interests will best permit; such postponements in each case to be merely temporary, or until the next session of Congress, as the means of the treasury and the prospect of accruing revenue shall warrant, and as shall be most in accordance with the public interests involved.

APPROVED, July 20th, 1840.

The "Belle Poule" frigate, commanded by the Prince de Joinville, and corvette "Favorite," bound to St. Helena for Bonaparte's remains, were at Madeira, from Cadiz, on the 24th July—to sail soon.

ARMY AND NAVY CHRONICLE.

The irregular appearance of the Army and Navy Chronicle has been the most serious impediment to its success. That irregularity can be obviated for the future by a very simple plan, which is easy of accomplishment and will require but little exertion on the part of its friends.

The editor has on hand one hundred complete sets for the years 1836, 7, 8, and 9, (excepting the month of October, 1839, not yet printed,) which he offers at *half price*, or ten dollars for the four years. If these can be disposed of, it will produce the sum of one thousand dollars, which with current subscriptions will ensure the future punctual appearance of the Chronicle.

There are surely one hundred officers in the army and navy, without counting upon individuals out of the service, public libraries and other institutions, who would be glad to possess the only authentic and permanent record of military and naval events published in this country.

If there be any who wish to secure a set, but whose stations are so remote or uncertain that they cannot conveniently receive and take care of it, they can remit the money, and the set will be laid aside, subject to order at any moment.

Not a week elapses without applications for missing numbers to complete files; and many subscribers have declared that they would not part with theirs on any terms, if they could not be replaced.

July 16

WASHINGTON CITY,
THURSDAY,.... AUGUST 27, 1840.

The "NATIONAL INSTITUTION FOR THE PROMOTION OF SCIENCE," of which some account was given in a former number, has been organized in Washington, and its officers elected. We augur much benefit to the cause of science from the establishment at the seat of government of an association, the objects of whose research and collection embrace so wide a range. The departments of the Institution consist, for the present, of

1. Chemistry ;
2. Geology and Mineralogy ;
3. Geography, Astronomy, and Natural Philosophy ;
4. Natural History ;
5. The Application of Science to the Useful Arts ;
6. American History and Antiquities ;
7. Agriculture ;
8. Literature and the Fine Arts.

Apart from the gratification of witnessing the efforts of men in high station, whose official duties are in general sufficiently absorbing and perplexing to engross their whole time, thus united in a cause in which all may join, it is refreshing to turn aside, if it be but for a moment, from the eternal and sickening din of party politics.

The soothing and passion-subduing influence which the pursuit of science exerts upon the human mind, must, to a partial extent, penetrate the every day transactions of its devotees. There is something elevating in literary pursuits and scientific researches—something that transports us beyond the debasing turmoils of the hour ; and every moment that can be abstracted from the one and devoted to the other, is so much gained towards the advancement of knowledge.

There seems to be a peculiar appropriateness in officers of the army and navy (although this institution is not confined to them) lending to such a cause the aid which their stations enable them to do. Called, in the discharge of duty, to almost every section of the habitable globe, they have opportunities to collect numerous specimens in natural history ; to make observations upon the climate, soil, resources, and productions of countries visited ; upon the habits, manners, language, and pursuits of the population ; upon the celestial and terrestrial phenomena that almost daily and nightly occur ; and in a thousand ways to promote the gratification of their fellow-citizens at home. That they will not permit those opportunities to pass unimproved, may be assumed by all who are familiar with their intelligence, patriotism, and spirit.

Copies of the Constitution and By-laws have been extensively distributed among the officers of the army and navy, accompanied by a circular letter soliciting their co-operation, and instructions for preserving specimens in natural history.

To make our readers acquainted with the objects of the Institution, and at the same time inviting zealous

aid, we insert the Constitution, and add the circular letter, for the information of such as have not had a copy thereof addressed to them.

The officers of the Institution are :

Directors.—HON. JOEL R. POINSETT, Secretary of War, and HON. JAMES K. PAULDING, Secretary of the Navy.

Councillors.—HON. JOHN QUINCY ADAMS, Col. J. J. ABERT, Col. JOSEPH G. TOTTEN, A. McWILLIAMS, M. D., and A. O. DAYTON.

Treasurer.—WILLIAM J. STONE.

Corresponding Secretary.—F. MARKOE, Jr.

Recording Secretary.—PISHEY THOMPSON.

There are eighty-four resident, three honorary, and ninety-one corresponding members. All Governors of States, and Diplomatic, Consular, and Commercial Agents of the United States, who are not otherwise connected with the Institution, shall, *ex officio*, be considered as corresponding members, and contributions and communications are requested from them.

CONSTITUTION.

ART. 1. This society shall be named "THE NATIONAL INSTITUTION FOR THE PROMOTION OF SCIENCE."

ART. 2. It shall hold its meetings at the city of Washington.

ART. 3. It shall be composed of Resident, Corresponding, and Honorary members.

ART. 4. The Resident members shall be persons residing in the District of Columbia ; Corresponding members shall be persons residing out of the District of Columbia, who wish to aid the Institution by their contributions or communications ; and the class of Honorary members shall be composed of eminent men residing out of the District of Columbia.

ART. 5. Resident members removing from the District of Columbia shall, on request, be transferred to the list of corresponding members, and *vice versa*.

ART. 6. The officers of the Institution shall consist of two Directors, a Treasurer, Corresponding and Recording Secretaries, and five Councillors.

ART. 7. The officers shall constitute a Board of Management of the fiscal concerns of the Institution ; and any five members of the Board shall be a quorum for the transaction of ordinary business.

ART. 8. The Secretaries of War and the Navy, for the time being, shall, with their consent, be directors ; but, upon the refusal of one or both of them to accede to the request of the Institution, such director or directors shall be chosen in the same manner as is herein provided for the appointment of other officers. The other officers shall be elected for the term of one year, or until their successors shall be appointed, from among the resident members of the Institution. This election shall take place at the annual meeting ; and each member of the Institution who is duly qualified, and shall be present at such meeting, shall have a vote in said election.

ART. 9. The annual meeting shall be held on the first Monday in each year, or as soon thereafter as may be convenient ; the stated meetings on the second Monday in each month ; and special meetings whenever five resident members shall concur in a request to that effect.

ART. 10. One of the directors, or, in his or their absence, the senior member of the council present shall preside at all meetings of the Institution. If neither of these members shall be present, the meeting shall elect its own chairman.

ART. 11. The election of members shall be by ballot ; all candidates for membership shall be ballot-

ted for by the Institution, on the nomination of a member to the council, and of the council to the society.

ART. 12. Resident members shall, on admission, subscribe the constitution of the Institution, and pay to the Treasurer five dollars each, to aid in defraying necessary expenses, and for such other purposes as the Board of Management may direct.

ART. 13. No resident member shall vote at any stated or other meeting of the Institution, on any question whatever, who has not paid his subscription and annual dues, or who shall not have attended a meeting of the Institution within one year previous to such meeting.

ART. 14. The resident and corresponding members shall exert themselves to procure specimens of natural history, &c.; and the said specimens shall be placed in the Cabinet, under the superintendence of a Board of Curators, to be appointed by the directors. All such specimens, &c., unless deposited *specially*, shall remain in the Cabinet, and in case of the dissolution of the Institution, shall become the property of the United States.

ART. 15. The resident members of the Institution shall be divided into such departments as may hereafter be determined upon. The members composing each department shall especially be charged with the subjects embraced therein, and communicate to the Institution the result of their inquiries; but every member shall have the privilege of making such communications as he may think proper on any subject connected with the designs of the Institution.

ART. 16. The various collections of the Institution shall be placed in the apartments which may be designated for that purpose by the Secretaries of War and of the Navy.

ART. 17. This constitution, with the exceptions of articles 6, 8, 10, 14, and 16, or so much thereof as relates to the office of directors, their duties, privileges, or powers, or the purposes or place of keeping of the collections of the Institution, shall be subject to alterations and additions at any meeting of the Institution, provided notice of a motion for such alteration or addition shall have been given and recorded at a preceding regular meeting; and provided, further, that no alterations or amendments shall ever be made in the above referred to articles, without the consent of both the directors.

ART. 18. A code of by-laws for the regulation of the business of the Board of Management, and the annual and other meetings of the Institution, and for matters relating to non-attendance, privileges, duties of officers, &c., shall be prepared by a committee to be appointed for that purpose.

ART. 19. All persons present at the adoption of this constitution shall, if desirous of becoming members of the Institution, sign the same as evidence of such desire, and in proof of such membership; and all members subsequently admitted shall sign the same at the first meeting of the society which they may attend after such admission.

CIRCULAR.

WASHINGTON,

184

SIR: You will receive, herewith, a copy of the constitution and by-laws of the National Institution for the Promotion of Science; and your aid to carry into effect the several objects of its establishment is earnestly requested.

Your position will enable you to furnish the Institution with useful information on Geography, Natural History, and Ethnography of that portion of the United States where you now are, and your attention is particularly desired to these subjects. The Institution will be pleased to receive topographical sketches of the country round your immediate station, accompanied with a memoir containing records of observations and facts connected with Astronomy, Meteorology, and other subjects of Natural Philoso-

phy; together with minute descriptions of the manners and customs, in peace and war, of the Indian nations near you; their food, their dress, their festivals, marriages, and funerals, the education of their children among themselves, and the results of the attempts of the whites to educate them; the division of labor among them, and the rank women hold in their communities; their mode of living, whether by hunting and fishing, or by agriculture; their laws, their domestic manufactures, their exercises and pastimes, their traditions, and especially their language, and all other objects of inquiry tending to illustrate their History and Ethnography.

One of the objects of the Institution being to obtain an accurate knowledge of the Natural History of our country, and to preserve the memory of the plants and animals of the United States now passing out of existence with the progress of settlement and cultivation, you are requested to collect and forward to the directors such specimens of organic and inorganic nature as may appear of sufficient interest to be deposited with the institution. Instructions for preserving and packing such collections will be communicated herewith.

Your obedient servant,

Correspondence of the Army and Navy Chronicle.

—, FLORIDA, July —, 1840.

It has rained ever since, and including, the 30th of June, excepting one day; and in Florida most truly is the saying good, "it never rains but it pours." It is my opinion that most all the Indians are drowned out of the everglades, and are now roaming about Middle Florida. The war never can be ended until the savages are cut off from supplies; they will be joined by whites, and I only wonder that more do not join the marauders. There never was a better theatre for land piracy than poor Florida is now. If I had any influence I would advise that an appropriation be made for hemp, to hang a squad of pale-faces who infest the country much more to its detriment than a troop of red-skins. It would have a good effect to *Ambristerize* a few of them.

I verily believe that this war cannot possibly be ended without at least 100,000 men in the field at once; and not then, without the most vigilant guard on the coast with armed steamers; for even were the Indians all gone, white men, especially Spaniards from the islands, would continually plunge into the woods, paint and dress as Indians, and plunder and kill. Should the war ever be ended, Florida will be a scene of arson, pillage, and murder, for ten years after, unless it be put under martial law, and no white or black be allowed to go into the interior without a passport from some competent authority.

You don't know how provoking it is to sit down on a log in the rain, while the men are hauling your wagon and mules out of a swamp, and think of the proceedings of Congress, which you have read probably the day before: how Mr. So-and-so spent half a day in stating that he had been misrepresented in some newspaper. At such times I think to myself, "there is a man who gets \$8 a day for talking; and here is a poor soldier who gets \$7 a month for working like a beaver." They give us but little credit at the north for our sufferings and privations here; no one, out of Florida, knows what the are.

Well, be it so. What are swamps to a member of Congress with a good comfortable fire to warm his feet by, before he jumps into bed? What are hantocks to a rotund alderman, who employs four horses to haul him homeward? What are long, dreary marches, through torrents of rain, to an editor* who wears cork soles to avoid the dew? Let every city sportsman, who is caught out in a shower, hunting, think of us in the wet! Let every gentleman, subject to tan, when he forgets his umbrella, think of us in the pine woods under a Florida sun! Let every visiter at Saratoga, when he quaffs his Congress water, think of us, drinking our solution of rotten limestone! and I reckon they will thank their stars they never listed. A week or a month is small potatoes, but when it comes to not only a year, but the plural, it is too much of a good thing. If Congress were compelled to hold their sessions in the everglades, and continue there until the war was ended, I will bet my old boots that they would pass a bill at one reading to raise 100,000 men.

It is all a mistaken notion, this keeping regiments in Florida one year after another. New regiments are best; and the assurance of a biennial change would cheer us up. But now we are worn out and disheartened; and all our glorious anticipations consist in being sent out with broken down constitutions on sick leave, or finding a grave in the wilderness. Our troops are brave, possess fortitude, and laugh as much as any body—between chills. How wonderful is the composition of man! how amazing the effect of discipline! that with so brilliant a prospect ahead, they still maintain their ardor and their spirits.

Never was a regiment more unfit for a summer in Florida than the 6th; it is a regiment of victims. They have suffered severely from the day they won immortality at Okechobee, to this hour. A year or two of respite, out of Florida, is certainly its due.†

The Chronicle has one failing: it ought to contain a brief editorial of the bills before Congress, and the rumors afloat about the army, as soon as possible.‡

* Where does our correspondent, in his fertile imagination, suppose these fortunate bipeds to reside? They are none of our acquaintance.—*Editor.*

† The writer does not belong to the 6th infantry.—*Editor.*

‡ We have endeavored, always however unsuccessfully, except during one session, to obtain Congressional documents. For the few we have been so fortunate as to secure, we are indebted to personal friends for a short loan of. Rumors are generally more rife at a distance than at the seat of Government, and we seldom give currency to any without getting "a rap over the knuckles" for it.—*Editor.*

ARRIVALS AT WASHINGTON.

Aug. 15—Capt G. C. Hutter, 6th infy.,	Gadsby's
16—Major Isaac Clark, Qr. Master,	Fuller's
17—Capt. G. Morris, 4th infy.,	Gadsby's
20—Lieut. G. G. Waggaman, 1st arty.	
Lieut. H. S. Turner, 1st dragoons,	Fuller's
21—Lieut. C. L. Stevenson, 5th infy.,	Brown's

PASSENGERS.

ST. AUGUSTINE, August 19, per steamer Santee, from southern posts, Drs. E. Worrell and J. R. Conrad, and Lieut. J. B. Boyd, of the army.

SAVANNAH, August 22, per brig Oglethorpe, for Baltimore, Dr. J. M. Cuyler, of the army. Aug. 25, per steam packet Isis, from Black creek, Maj. Æ. Mackay, Paymaster J. Brown, and Capt. D. D. Tompkins, of the army.

CHARLESTON, August 23, per schr. Empire, from St. Augustine, Dr. E. Worrell, of the army.

Communications.

PASTIMES IN THE PACIFIC. No. III. GUAYAQUIL AND PUNA.

Wearied and disgusted with Old Callao and a cruise of some months along the barren coast of Peru, we were not sorry to spread our sails to the light fair winds for a short visit to the wooded district of the Ecuador.

Passing in sight of Huacho, Huanchaco, and Pacasmaya, the port of Lambeyque, we anchored for a few hours in the harbor of Payta; the small-pox was then raging among the inhabitants of the town, and we were deprived the pleasure of a visit to some interesting young ladies, whose smiles of welcome and songs of joy are apt to wean the wanderer from his far off home, or remind him more strongly of those he has left behind. At sunset we left the port of Pura. I caught a hasty glance at the lonely church and village of Colan, on the northern side of the harbor, and remembered with some pleasure the Virgins of the Sun whom I had met there years ago, arrayed in their ornaments of gold, preparatory to a dance at one of their religious festivals.

As usual, off Cape Blanco we had the breeze pretty fresh, and our ship was not many hours in blue water, however blue some on board might have felt at a protracted cruise in the Pacific, with the joyous prospect, too, of a second trip to Mazatlan, and the delectable sand hills and gold mines of Mexico. Entering the gulf, we worked up (anchoring when occasion required) with the tide and light winds. At Puna we took a pilot for the river; the green trees looked like old acquaintances long since parted with, yet fresh in our memory, and far more pleasant than the evening dew on the grassy shores of the meandering Rimac. We hailed them with joy, and breathed the balmy breeze from the hills and valleys, and from the groves of the lime and orange, with transport; yet we missed the sturdy oak and wide-spreading beech of our native forests. The tide changing to ebb, at about 8, p. m., we came to; the rippling waters had a lulling effect, and that night perhaps we dreamed of our homes, our native hills, and —; but the morrow brought the song of tropic birds, and the mangrove-bound shores of the Guayaquil. Parrots were flying in pairs over us, and the gay macaw were dressing their gaudy plumage as they sat on the tamarind trees here and there along the banks. The tall cocoa waved gracefully its branches in the air, and was the first gilded with the rays of the rising sun, just peeping o'er the snow-capped heights of Chimborazo. Having got under way before 4, a. m., at seven we were at anchor off the city, just below the wreck of the frigate Prueba.

At this season, which is considered the most pleasant and healthy, in lat. 2° 12' south, we have the thermometer (Fahrenheit) at 79. Guayaquil contains about twenty thousand inhabitants; the buildings are two and three stories high, roughly constructed, with tiled roofs, but very comfortable within; a portion of the lower class, like the Chinese, live on the water, not in boats but rafts of balsa wood, on which they erect cabins of bamboo, and float up and down the river as they may happen to be employed, freighted with the produce of the country for exportation, cocoa,

fruits, wood, etc. On the Malecon, which is the fashionable promenade on the bank of the river, may be seen of an evening many of the distinguished characters in the late revolution of Peru, generals, presidents, ministers, etc. I believe one is not entitled to the credit of having ascended the Nile until he has killed a crocodile; here, on the Guayaquil, it is requisite not only to kill an alligator, but eat of the guana; they are not quite as palatable as a stewed chicken, nor as nourishing as the oysters of Puna.

We left with reluctance our hospitable friends in your quiet city; our ship dropped slowly down without spreading her canvass to the summer breeze; and when the shades of night closed in, and we lost sight of you, perhaps forever, the light burned cheerfully on the Malecon, and seemed to beckon us to come, come again to the social halls of those we had known too late, and tarried with as it were but a day. Our bright stars shone sweetly in the deep blue vault of heaven; I thought they were whispering of thee, and the mild breeze wafted us delicious perfume from the valley of flowers.

On the morrow we were drifting quietly down the stream, the gentle current just rippled by the western winds, and the lofty green trees casting their shadows from either bank. A small boat is descried in the distance; on, on she came; is it some friend who wishes to say again good bye? Two rowers ply their oars, and time them to the measure of a Castilian song; she nears, she passes us. Beneath a crimson canopy, reclining gracefully on the cushioned seat, a dark-eyed daughter of the Ecuador seemed lost in some fond reverie of other days; she sadly but sweetly smiled as she returned our salute, and the song of the oarsmen was soon lost upon the winding river.

We anchored a few hours at Puna, and after years of absence I revisited the village which lay almost desolate before me. I sought for the hall which was once enlivened by music and the merry laugh of light hearted dancers, where beauty had smiled upon the mariner and the stranger far from his kindred and his home. A few scattered timbers and a dilapidated roof marked the spot. I looked for the lime tree, in the shade of which I had oftentimes seated myself to reflect upon by-gone days with bright hopes for the future; some rude axe had been there—it was gone—gone, too, were the days, the times, the fair forms that once endeared to me this village on the ever-green island in the Gulf of Guayaquil. G.

FLORIDA WAR.

A WORD OF ADVICE TO "THE POWERS THAT BE."

"The good man is merciful to his beast."—Prov.
"How much are we above the brutes that perish."

[Scrip.]

I feel it incumbent on me as a philanthropist to advise the AUTHORITIES to withdraw the troops immediately from the interior of Florida. We have had incessant rains for a long time past, and the flat country is flooded. An August sun will soon dry up this water, and the moistened vegetation will rapidly decay. Miasma will be generated, and the result will be that THE SICKNESS IN THIS TERRITORY NEXT FALL WILL BE UNPARALLELED.

All the misfortunes that have occurred in this country have arisen from a want of foresight. If the troops remain, and such a catastrophe happen, as I predict, LET THE AUTHORITIES REMEMBER THE

PROPHET.

[Being gifted with a very obliging disposition, we comply with the request of our correspondent, and insert his communication—italics, small caps, and caps, as it was written. We think, however, that it will be unavailing, and hope that his forebodings will not be realized. The late hour at which the communication

was received, and the delay in the publication of the Chronicle, would almost render the suggestion nugatory, by the advanced state of the season, even were it acted upon at once. We presume that the commanding General is vested with discretionary power to remove the troops from any post or section that shall prove to be unhealthy; and even if he were not, that he would not hesitate to assume the responsibility of doing so, where the safety and lives of those under his command were at stake.—Editor.]

THE LATE CAPT. WILLIAM DAY, U. S. A.

Tribute of respect to the memory of Captain WILLIAM DAY, late of the 1st regiment U. S. Infantry, who died at St. Louis, Mo., on the 4th of August, 1840; and whose remains were conveyed to Jefferson Barracks, and interred with military honors by the 8th regiment of infantry on the following day.

At a meeting of the officers of the U. S. army, stationed at Jefferson Barracks, on the 6th of August, 1840, Colonel WORTH in the chair, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:

1st. That we sincerely deplore the loss of our esteemed brother soldier, Captain WILLIAM DAY, late of the 1st regiment U. S. Infantry, by which sad event the army has been deprived of a gallant soldier of twenty years standing; whose services on our western frontier, and more recently in Florida, bear ample testimony to his zeal for his country's welfare.

2d. That as a tribute of respect for the memory of the deceased, the officers at this post will wear the usual badge of mourning for the space of thirty days.

3d. That a copy of these proceedings be sent to the Colonel of the 1st Regiment of Infantry, and also to the Editor of the Army and Navy Chronicle for publication.

H. ATKINSON, Brig. Gen. U. S. A.
W. J. WORTH, Col. 8th Regiment.
S. G. I. De CAMP, Surgeon U. S. A.
N. S. CLARKE, Lt. Col. 8th Inf.
THOS. P. GWYNN, Capt. 8th Inf.
J. A. PHILLIPS, Capt. 8th Inf.
J. S. WORTH, Capt. 8th Inf.
G. WRIGHT, Capt. 8th Inf.
R. B. SCREVEN, Capt. 8th Inf.
WM. OVERTON KELLO, Capt. 8th Inf.
WM. MAFFITT, Asst. Surg. U. S. A.
H. MCKAVETT, Lt. 8th Regt.
J. V. BOMFORD, 1st Lt. 8th Inf.
J. V. D. REEVE, 1st Lt. 8th Inf.
C. R. GATES, 1st Lt. 8th Inf.
J. T. SPRAGUE, 1st Lt. & Adj. 8th Regt.
J. A. RIELL, 2d Lt. 8th Inf.
A. L. SHEPPARD, 2d Lt. 8th Inf.
J. SELDEN, 2d Lt. 8th Inf.
THOS. S. J. JOHNSON, Lt. 8th Regt.
A. T. LEE, 2d Lt. 8th Inf.
J. ROBERTSON, Asst. Surg. U. S. A.

Domestic Intelligence.

FLORIDA WAR.

The Charleston papers of Thursday last contain the particulars of the massacre of a portion of the inhabitants of Indian Key, and the destruction of nearly all the buildings on the night of the 5th inst., by a party of Indians from the main land, estimated to be from 100 to 150 in number. This intelligence was brought to Charleston by the schooner Victory, from Key-west, and is confirmed by an officer of the army who reached this city yesterday, direct from the melancholy scene.

A correspondent of the Charleston Courier states that the following persons were on the Key at the attack—Mr. Houseman and wife, Mr. Chas. Howe, wife and 5 children, Dr. Perrine, wife and 3 children,

Mrs. Elliott Smith, child, brother, and mother, Jno. Motte, wife and 3 children, Messrs. Otis, Blocks, and Glass, carpenters, Mr. Goodhue, clerk of Mr. Houseman, 8 men, crew of wrecking sloop Key West, and some 10 or 12 negroes, the latter all saved. Out of this number Mr. Motte, wife and 2 children, are destroyed, and Dr. Perrine and the brother of Mrs. Smith, with all of the houses, except one of Mr. Howe's.

So soon as the alarm was given by the yells of the Indians, Mr. Houseman and wife, and Mr. Howe, wife, and five children, were successful in making their escape, and went to Tea-Table Key, which is about one mile and a half. Dr. Perrine, wife, and three children, remained in their house for a short time, when the doctor went to the cupola, and spoke to the Indians in Spanish—but it is supposed they then shot him, for he was not again seen.

At Tea-Table Key, (a U. S. post about one mile and a half from Indian Key,) there were about 12 invalids, in charge of a doctor of the U. S. A. The rest of the detachment of marines, under command of Lieut. Sloan, had left about 48 hours before, in the U. S. schooner Wave, for Cape Romano, to join the expedition of boats in the everglades, under command of Lieut. comd'g McLaughlin. Nevertheless, the doctor, so soon as he heard of the attack, with five of his invalids, and Mr. Houseman, pushed towards the scene of action, with a barge, in which was mounted a gun, which they discharged on approaching the place; it recoiled, and went overboard. The Indians left their plunder, and walked as far as they could in the water towards the boats, distributing themselves and firing, by which they wounded one of the doctor's men and obliged him to haul off.

FLORIDA WAR.—The following orders seem to belong to the history of this never-ending war, and as such we give them a place of record:

GENERAL } HEAD QUARTERS FLORIDA MILITIA,
ORDER, } Adj. and Insp. General's Office,
No. 11. } Tallahassee, 17th July, 1840.

The following instructions have been received from His Excellency, ROBERT RAYMOND REID, Commander-in-Chief of the Florida militia. The attention of the commanding officers of brigades, regiments, and volunteer corps, is earnestly invoked to the strict fulfilment of the injunctions therein contained. Any dereliction of duty on the part of officers relative thereto, will meet with prompt and merited disapprobation.

The officers commanding the different regiments will bear in mind constantly General Order No. 9—by a strict compliance with which, it is to be hoped that an efficient protection will be afforded the frontier against the savage foe.

By order of His Excellency, R. R. REID, Commander-in-Chief. JNO. GRAHAM,
Adj. & Insp. Gen. Flo. Militia.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,
Tallahassee, 17th July, 1840.

SIR: General ARMISTEAD having determined to remove the greater part of the regular forces to the east of the Suwannee, it is highly important that the troops in the Territorial service, the militia of Middle and West Florida, and the inhabitants generally, should be more vigilant than ever, and constantly on the alert, to resist the incursions of the enemy. No doubt the Indians, emboldened by the departure of such a number of men from the Middle district, will seek opportunity to attack the settlements, and it is the duty of every citizen, whether in or out of service, to be prepared, not only to repel the enemy, but to give a good account of him, should he appear upon our frontier.

You will direct the Colonel commanding the volunteers in service, to cause an incessant scouting to be

kept up, between the posts, and in the adjacent hammocks and swamps; and you will take measures, if you have not already done so, for the immediate organization of the militia, and if your orders are not promptly obeyed, you will report the delinquent and refractory, to the end that the laws of the land may be enforced against them.

To the militia we look for the protection of our homes and firesides; but how can they prove instruments of safety, without organization, discipline and subordination? Our people should not permit themselves to be lulled into a false security; it is impossible to tell when or where Indians may make their appearance; we should be prepared for them every where, and at all times. It is confidently believed, that with pickets around houses at all exposed; with citizens well armed AT HOME, and prepared for defence; with a militia determined to beat back and pursue the enemy; with the volunteers continually in motion on a line beyond the settlements, we shall be able at least to protect ourselves, until the more active operations of the fall and winter months shall commence. Care and activity for a short time, may prevent the effusion of blood and destruction of property.

You will take care to encourage the formation of volunteer companies throughout the Territory. The Executive will have pleasure in endeavoring to procure for such companies arms and accoutrements. The Tallahassee Guards, the Independent City Greys, the Iola Volunteers, and the Centreville Hussars, will hold themselves in readiness to march wherever and whenever they may be directed, and the public service may require.

You will facilitate, as much as possible, the organization of the regiment intended for the U. S. service—the companies composing which will be mustered out of the Territorial service; they are to be received into the U. S. service for the term of three months; each company will consist of 61 privates, 1 captain, 1 1st lieutenant, 1 2d lieutenant, 4 sergeants, 4 corporals, and 2 musicians.

MEN must be offered to the U. S.; Boys will not be received; such are the instructions from Washington; but at the same time, you will cause it to be distinctly understood, that the commander-in-chief has great reason to be satisfied with the conduct of boys in Florida, upon many trying occasions, and is perfectly aware, that they have often evinced a valor and patriotism worthy the imitation of men.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obdt serv't,
ROBERT RAYMOND REID,
Governor of Florida.

Colonel JOHN GRAHAM,
Adj't & Insp. Gen'l Florida Militia.

QUARTERMASTER GEN.'S OFFICE, FLO. MILITIA,
Tallahassee, July 8th, 1840.

FELLOW CITIZENS: I am instructed by His Excellency ROBERT RAYMOND REID, to proceed to collect all the muskets, rifles, shot guns and accoutrements, that may have been delivered to you by his predecessor. Those who are in possession of such as belong to the Territory are requested to deliver them to the undersigned, or to his agent at this office forthwith. The immediate return of the above mentioned arms is required for the defence of the frontier, and further prosecution of the war against the savage foe.

It is to be hoped that this call upon you will not be made in vain.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,
JOHN B. COLLINS,
Quarter Master General.

GENERAL } HEAD QUARTERS FLORIDA MILITIA,
ORDER, } Adjutant General's Office,
No. 10. } Tallahassee, Flo., July 5, 1840.

The officers commanding regiments in the militia of this Territory, will transmit to this office a list of

names of the commissioned officers in their respective commands, together with the dates of their appointments.

By order of His Excellency, Gov. R. R. REID,
Commander-in-chief, JNO. GRAHAM,
Adj. & Insp. Gen. Flo. Militia.

Correspondence of the New York Express.

U. S. SHIP OHIO,
Palermo, June 25, 1840. }

Since leaving Mahon on the 19th of April, we have visited Spezia, Genoa, and Toulon. Arrived at this port on the 11th inst, and shall sail this evening for Port Mahon, where we expect to be joined by Capt. Vallette. Our ship's company are in excellent health. There are only fifteen on the sick list, and those from slight causes.

The Brandywine, Capt. Bolton, is on a cruise between Cape de Gat and Lisbon. The Cyane sailed from this port three days before our arrival, for the Archipelago, to cruise there some two or three months.

Last Monday evening a soiree was given on board ship by the commander and his lady, and a large number of the nobility and gentry of the city were present.

Extract from a letter from an officer on board the U. S. ship Cyane, dated PALERMO, June 5th 1840.

We left Leghorn the 15th of May. The Ohio was at Genoa; the Brandywine on a cruise to Gibraltar, and outside the straits to Cadiz, &c. We touched at Naples; left there the 23d ult. Several French vessels of war, and an English squadron were there. The sulphur question was to have been amicably adjusted on the 25th ult.; therefore John Bull has, at present, only the Chinese to engage with.

We are bound up to Smyrna, Constantinople, etc.; next autumn return to Mahon, where we shall refit ship; and expect to be in the United States early during the spring of '41.—*Boston Post.*

THE SQUADRON ON OUR COAST.—A letter from one of the officers of the U. S. ship *Levant*, states that the Macedonian, *Levant* and *Erie*, arrived at Eastport on the 16th instant. The squadron will sail from Eastport to Castine, and from thence to Portland. From Portland it is intended to proceed to Townsend, Portsmouth, Gloucester, Provincetown, Newport and New York. The squadron were saluted at Eastport, on the 17th, and the flag-ship returned the salute.

The Texian schooner of war *San Antonio*, on the 2d instant, put into Galveston for repair—having been struck by lightning. She reports the destination of the Texian fleet to be Tampico.

From Col. Campbell's British Army.

SOLDIER-SAILORS.—Although a soldier, I have been much at sea, and I have frequently heard and remarked that the very best sailors are those trained especially from boyhood in our ships of war. At first, seamen might be taken wherever they could be found to man our ships; but if a system of this kind were adopted—and of course many points connected with it would require to be well weighed—there could not be any doubt but our ships would soon be very superiorly manned by perfectly trained seamen, who could use cannon, mortars, &c., with proper effect; and if they were only treated with kindness, which I have no doubt they would be, and paid fairly and liberally, the navy would have a most decided advantage over our merchant service, and men would gladly enter the former in preference to the latter. A considerable portion of the crews for the several classes of ships should, even at the commencement of the system, be boys, and it might naturally be expected that they would not only grow up in a complete knowledge of their duties as sailors, but also become, like soldiers, strongly attached to their officers, in whom they could

have confidence, and from whom they were not under any circumstances to be separated. Of course such permanent seamen would require occasionally, and especially after long voyages, to be allowed to visit their families and friends. Leave of absence from their ships ought, whenever it was possible, to be liberally granted to them, and such men when on shore, would conduct themselves with propriety; for on board I should conclude that due attention was paid to their religious and common education.

INFERIOR OFFICERS OF THE NAVY.—Much has been said of the hardships experienced by mates and the class of petty officers of the navy in general; but this is a subject which I cannot and ought not to enter. But let us look a little into other matters, and try to comprehend what interest it takes even to have one's son made a midshipman, then to get a captain to take him with him for the three years he may be afloat. Then another captain must be found to take him for three years more under his wing; or else, we must have excellent interest indeed, if we can contrive to get him forward without nursing captains; and all this time we have been obliged to allow him sufficient for his messing, and to enable him to appear dressed like an officer and a gentleman. In some ships this cannot be done under sixty pounds a year. Then he probably comes home to us a stout light-hearted fellow, who has already passed his examinations for a lieutenantancy, and would give the world to be made one, but to effect this (for any services he may have performed are of no importance,) takes a vast deal of interest. This at last accomplished, again patronage is required to get him afloat for some years longer. But although now an experienced officer, what interest does it take to have him made a commander! And then how much more to get him appointed to a ship. In short, nothing but patronage or interest from beginning to end will answer, or ever did answer in our navy, and the reader need not therefore be surprised at my feeling, next to hopeless, that all this will be overturned to suit what will no doubt be held up to the world as the effusion of a madman. Be this however as it may, (and I leave it to the good sense of the country to settle the matter with patrons) a captain now commanding one of our frigates, in a conversation I had with him on subjects of this kind, mentioned that he calculated it would cost him about £1,200 over and above his pay, &c., to keep his table and to meet other unavoidable expenses; and that too with a strict attention to economy, for the three years he calculated upon being actively employed; and I am aware that it took a good deal of interest on his part to get the ship he now commands.

THE STAFF.—Staff officers ought to be men of talent, and of great enterprise and perseverance, and should possess even a certain knowledge of what is considered business, both in a civil and military point of view, which would render them capable of ascertaining and calling forth the various resources of a country. They should also be well acquainted with military police duties, or the best mode of exercising military law in all its bearings; to enable them to do this with advantage to the army and country, they should have attached to them an intelligent *mounted police corps*. From the want of such an establishment, which it is the work of years to form, how often and how severely have our armies suffered, and must continue to suffer, till a change takes place!

THE CAT, & THE BASTINADO.—We are constantly hearing of the horrors of flogging in our regiments, and scarcely an instance occurs but that some of the newspapers endeavor to hold it up in the most exaggerated language and strongest coloring, to the detestation of the nation; but, after all, what is such punishment as now inflicted to what takes place all over Germany, and in the armies of the Czar? We are told, and it should be known in Great Britain, that the kind of bastinado by which the flesh is most cruelly torn off by the point of a stick, is so severe in

German and other armies, that few men can stand many blows of the corporals who inflict it; and as for the Russian knout, half-a-dozen strokes, or even less, can be made fatal by a skilful hand.

IMPROVEMENT OF THE MUSKET.—We every day hear of the experiments and improvements in the construction of fire-arms, and the country can surely afford to supply our army with a superior musket, with a proper elevation and a percussion lock. The present old-fashioned firelock, with which nearly all our troops are still supplied, is very imperfect, and heavier than it ought to be. But would it not be well to consider whether the new musket should not be considerably longer in the barrel, and smaller in the bore; and that the bayonet should be much reduced in size? And I would also arm the soldiers that I have in view with a sword of the shape and size used by the ancient Romans; for we may depend upon it that our brave powerful men would follow their officers sword in hand, into the midst of their enemies. The musket should then be carried, either in the left hand or slung upon the soldier's shoulder, and the bayonet could be fixed to it if preferred.

AN UNGALLANT OPINION.—The fewer women allowed to accompany an army the better, for they are generally useless, and tend immensely to increase the number of animals and quantity of baggage. I once knew a general, who, in an order he issued, was so ungallant as to style these ladies "his advanced guard of infamy," and I must admit that he had too often just cause to style them so.

OFFICERS FROM THE RANKS.—It has often been remarked that no officers are so severe, or have so little consideration for the feeling of the soldiers, as those who have risen from the ranks.

Military Intelligence.

Quartermaster's department.—Captain Ketchum relieves Captain Heintzelman at Tallahassee; Capt. H. proceeds to Fort Fanning.

Medical Staff.—Surgeon B. F. Harney, ordered to Cedar Keys, Fla. Asst. Sur. L. Sprague, from Hancock Barracks to Fort Brooke. Surgeon E. Macomb, to join the 8th infantry, and accompany it to Florida. Asst. Sur. W. Maffitt, to Fort Leavenworth. Assistant Surgeons W. T. Leonard, and J. S. Griffin, each to accompany a detachment of the 3d infantry to Fla. Richard F. Simpson, of Va., appointed Asst. Surgeon August 1. Leave for three months from August 26, to Asst. Surgeon E. Worrell.

Topographical Engineers.—Major J. D. Graham, and Lieuts. T. J. Lee and George Thom, ordered on the survey of the due north line of the northeastern boundary. Lieut. J. H. Simpson, on sick leave at Buffalo, New York.

1st Dragoons.—Lt. Col. Mason, with the troops under his command, ordered to take post at Fort Gibson. The new work at Fort Wayne will be suspended until further orders.

2d Dragoons.—Lieut. C. May, in command of Capt. Howe's troop, arrived at Fort Jackson, July 20, en route for Garey's Ferry. Capt. E. D. Bullock, with his troop, arrived at Fort Jackson, July 22, en route for Fort Fanning, on the Suwannee.

1st Artillery.—One company to be detached from Hancock Barracks, to garrison Fort Sullivan, Eastport; and another company to garrison Fort Preble, Portland, Maine.

2d Artillery.—A field officer and two companies will take post at Madison Barracks, Sackets Harbor, in time to relieve the two companies of the 8th infy., now there, by the 25th September.

1st Infantry.—Major G. Dearborn, com'g regiment; Lieut. G. W. F. Wood, adjutant; Head Quarters, Fort Pleasant, M. F.

Stations of the several companies:

- A. Fort Stanberry, (12 miles from Tallahassee;) Lt. W. E. Prince, commanding company and post.
- B. Fort Jackson, Capt. S. Burbank, com'g company and post; Lieut. F. Cox, subaltern.

C. Fort McCrabb, Suwannee Old town hammock, (9 miles from Fort Fanning;) Lieut. J. H. King, commanding post and company.

D. Fort Fanning, Capt. S. Eastman, com'g; Lieut. G. Barry, subaltern.

E. Lt. B. H. Arthur, com'g co., Fort Barker, Cook's hammock, (33 m. from Fort McCrabb.)

F. Capt. J. R. B. Gardener, com'g co. and post, Fort Pleasant, (55 m. E. from Tallahassee.)

G. Lt. G. W. Wallace, com'g co., Fort Pleasant.

H. Fort Macomb, Suwannee Shoals; Lieut. S. E. Muse, com'g post and co; Lt. A. Waugh, sub.

I. Fort Barker, Cook's hammock, (33 m. from Fort McCrabb,) Lieut. E. Paine, com'g co. and post.

K. Fort Poinsett, Cedar Keys, opposite the mouth of the Suwannee; Lt. F. H. Masten, com'g co. and post.

1st Lieut. Geo. H. Pegram, promoted to the rank of Captain, vice W. Day, deceased.

2d Lieut. Ferdinand Cox, to be 1st Lieut. vice Pegram, promoted.

Bvt. 2d Lieut. James N. Caldwell, 2d infy., appointed 2d Lieut. vice Cox, promoted.

Leave until Oct. 1, to Captains A. S. Miller and J. H. Lamotte.

3d Infantry.—This regiment is under orders to proceed to join the army in Florida. Lieut. A. G. Blanchard left New Orleans, July 4, with 36 recruits for Fort Jesup, which were assigned on the 22d to co. D.

4th Infantry.—Detachments of one company each to garrison Forts Jesup, Towson, and Smith, now occupied by the 3d.

5th Infantry.—Lieut. J. B. S. Todd, 6th infy., left Newport, Ky., August 8, with 75 recruits, for Fort Crawford.

6th Infantry.—The regiment remains for the present at Camp Gamble and the neighborhood, awaiting the arrival of Gen. Armistead, daily expected at the last advices.

8th Infantry.—This regiment, which recently arrived at Jefferson Barracks, from the Winnebago country, will proceed to join the army in Florida. The two companies at Madison Barracks will leave that post by the 25th September. Lieut. J. M. Scott, 1st infantry, arrived at Jefferson Barracks, August 8, from Newport, Ky., with 74 recruits and 14 soldiers.

NAVY.

ORDERS.

August 10—P. Mid. W. Gwathmey, detached from the Macedonian, and leave one month.

11—Mid. S. C. Barney, Naval School, Philadelphia.

Mid. L. B. Robinson, rec'g ship, Norfolk.

Lieut. E. B. Boutwell, leave 3 months, having returned from the West Indies, sick.

14—Mid. Wm. H. Smith, rec'g ship, Norfolk.

18—Mid. J. S. Ridgely, Naval School, Philadelphia.

Lieut. A. Sinclair, detached from West-India squadron, and leave three months.

20—Lieut. Wm. J. H. Robertson, leave three months, having returned from the West Indies, sick.

26—Chaplain T. R. Lambert, leave six months, with permission to leave the U. S.

Naval Intelligence.

U. S. VESSELS OF WAR REPORTED.

MEDITERRANEAN SQUADRON.—Ship of the line Ohio, Commo. Hull, arrived at Palermo, June 18, and still there on the 25th, to sail same evening for Mahon.

WEST INDIA SQUADRON.—The frigate Macedonian, and sloops of war Erie and Levant, arrived at Eastport, August 16th on a cruise to the eastern waters. They were saluted by H. M. ship Sattelite, lying at Campo Bello.

Schr. Wave, Lt. Comdt. J. Rodgers, left Key West, August 8, for Cape Romain, with canoes.

MARRIAGE.

At Skeneateles, N. Y., on the 18th instant, Captain JAMES H. STOKES, of the U. S. army, to Miss EMELINE, daughter of RICHARD L. DE ZENG, Esq.

DEATHS.

At Fort Towson, on the 26th July, A. FRED, aged 7 months, youngest child of Major HENRY WILSON, U. S. A.

At Pontiac, Mich., in the 22d year of his age, Mr. JOSEPH NORVELL, late a midshipman in the U. S. navy, and second son of the Hon. JOHN NORVELL, of the U. S. Senate.

At Warren, R. I., on the — instant, CORNELIUS BENNETT, aged 74, one of the oldest masters in the U. S. navy.

From the New Orleans Commercial Bulletin.

Died, on Sunday evening, the 9th of August, in consequence of injuries received by a fall through the hatchway of store No. —, in Poydras street, Mr. JAMES GREENLEAF, Jr., aged about 40 years, a native of Bristol, R. I. but for many years a resident of this city. On his first voyage from Baltimore to this city, in the fall of 1822, he was captured by pirates off the coast of Cuba, was severely wounded on the head with a cutlass: was several days a prisoner, subject to the most cruel treatment, but in company with the mate of their own vessel, succeeded in making their escape in an open boat, during a calm, amidst a shower of bullets. After rowing for two days and nights on the briny deep, without provisions or water, and out of sight of land, they at length succeeded in reaching the coast, about twenty miles from Matanzas, from whence a U. S. vessel was despatched in pursuit of the pirates, who finding themselves so hotly pursued, run their vessel on shore, and many escaped to the woods. In this engagement Lieut. Allen, of the U. S. navy, lost his life. Since that period, Mr. G. has been several times shipwrecked, and made some hair-breadth escapes. Two years ago, while ascending the Mississippi in a schooner, a squall of wind capized the vessel, and he barely escaped with his life. His history is a continued chapter of accidents and misfortunes, yet he bore all with a degree of philosophy which was truly astonishing. He had encountered death in almost every form: in the cruel and bloody pirate; in an open boat tossed upon the briny deep; in yellow fever, in cholera, in shipwreck—still his life was preserved; his hour had not yet come. But, alas, in a moment of security—in an hour when no danger threatened, behold the summons is at hand—a false step, and his eventful career is terminated, and he is called without a moment's warning, to the presence of his Creator. What a striking comment on the uncertainty of human life—how true, that “in the midst of life we are in death”—hence the awful necessity of timely preparation. The deceased has left an orphan son, about six years old, and a numerous circle of friends and acquaintances to mourn his untimely death. Kind and amiable in his deportment to those around him, he won the friendship and esteem of all who made his acquaintance. He was the noblest work of God, an honest man. W.

At St. Stephens, Ala., on the 4th instant, THEOPHILUS J. WILKINSON, grandson of the late Hon. and Rev. HARRY TOLMIN, formerly of England, and grandson of the late Gen. JAMES WILKINSON, of the U. S. army. The subject of this notice was a distinguished graduate of West Point; after graduating he remained some years in the army, where he was conspicuous for his lofty bearing and his high sense of virtue; a character justly venerated by his brother officers, and one whose worth was a model for their imitation. His decease will be painfully felt.

Near Aiken, S. C., on the 12th July, in the 93d year of his age, JOHN RANDALL, Senr., who, during our memorable struggle for independence, was found among that gallant band of patriots, in our State, which left their homes and firesides; and, upon the altars of their country laid their lives, their fortunes, and their all.

NAVY BEEF AND PORK, FOR 1841.

NAVY COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE, July 24, 1840.

SEALED OFFERS, endorsed “Offers for Beef” or “Offers for Pork,” as the case may be, will be received at this office until 3 o'clock, P. M. of the 31st day of August next, for furnishing and delivering, free of all cost and charge to the United States, two thousand six hundred barrels (2,600 bbls.) of Navy Beef, and two thousand one hundred barrels (2,100 bbls.) of Navy Pork, each barrel to contain two hundred pounds nett weight of beef or pork.

Seven hundred barrels (700 bbls.) of the Pork to be delivered at the Navy Yard, Charlestown, Massachusetts.

Two thousand barrels (2,000 bbls.) of the Beef, and nine hundred barrels (900 bbls.) of the Pork, to be delivered at the Navy Yard, Brooklyn, New York.

And six hundred barrels (600 bbls.) of the Beef, and five hundred barrels (500 bbls.) of the Pork, to be delivered at the Navy Yard, Gosport, Virginia.

All of the said Beef and Pork to be delivered between the 15th March and the 25th May, 1841, unless earlier deliveries should be authorized by the Navy Commissioners.

The beef must be packed from well-fattened cattle, weighing not less than five hundred pounds nett weight each. The legs and leg rands of the hind quarters, and the shins and shoulder clods, and at least eight pounds from the neck end of each fore-quarter, or the parts marked Nos. 1, 2 and 3, on the drawing or delineation of the fore and hind quarters of an ox, which will be attached to and form a part of the contract, must be wholly excluded from each barrel, and the remainder of the carcass must be cut in pieces of not less than eight pounds each.

The Pork must be packed from corn-fed well-fattened hogs, weighing not less than two hundred pounds each, excluding the heads, joles, necks, shoulders, hams, legs, feet, and lard—and all refuse pieces—and must be cut in pieces weighing not less than six pounds each.

Both the Beef and Pork must be slaughtered between the 1st November next and the periods of delivery, and must be salted with at least one bushel of coarse Turk's Island, Isle of May, or St. Ubes salt, and with five ounces of pure pulverized saltpetre to each barrel, exclusive of a pickle, to be made from fresh water, as strong as salt can make it.

The barrels to be made of the best seasoned heart of white oak or white ash staves and heading, not less than three-fourths of an inch thick; to be hooped at least three-fourths over with the best white oak or hickory hoops, except the cross hoop, which must be of iron, at least one inch wide, and not less than the denomination No. 17; all at the expense of the respective contractors. Each barrel must be branded on its head “Navy Beef,” or “Navy Pork,” as the case may be, with contractor's name, and the year when packed.

The Beef and the Pork will be inspected by the inspecting officers at the respective Navy Yards aforesaid, and by some “sworn inspectors of all provisions,” who will be selected by the respective commanding officers; but their charges for such inspection must be paid by the respective contractors, who must likewise have the barrels put in good shipping order, to the satisfaction of the commandants of the respective Navy Yards aforesaid, after the inspections, and at their own expense.

Bidders must specify their prices separately and distinctly, in separate offers for the Beef and for the Pork, and for each of the places of delivery, covering all expenses and charges.

Letters from persons binding themselves to become sureties, if the offers are accepted, and other letters from some navy agent, commandant at a navy yard, or other person well known to the Department, must accompany the offers of each person, and state the belief of the writer that the person offering to contract is practically acquainted by experience with the best mode of curing and packing beef and pork, and has the ability to perform his contract in a satisfactory manner, and that his sureties have also the ability, in case of failure on the part of the contractor, to pay the amount of their bonds.

The Board of Navy Commissioners reserve to themselves the right to reject all offers from persons who have heretofore failed to fulfil their contracts, or who do not forward satisfactory letters showing their ability, and the ability of their sureties, to complete the contracts.

Bonds in one-third the amount of the respective contracts will be required, and ten per centum in addition will be withheld from the amount of each payment to be made, as collateral security for the due and faithful performance of their respective contracts, which will, on no account, be paid until the contracts are complied with in all respects—and is to be forfeited to the use and benefit of the United States in the event of failures to complete the deliveries within the prescribed periods. And in case of failure on the part of the contractors to deliver the aforesaid beef and pork within the times specified, the Navy Commissioners to have the right to direct purchases to be made to supply the deficiencies, and any excess of cost to be charged to, and paid by, the contractors. Payment will be made by the United States (excepting the ten per centum to be withheld until the completion of the contracts as before stated) within thirty days after the said beef and pork shall have been inspected and received, and bills for the same shall be presented to the navy agents, respectively, duly approved by the commandants of the respective navy yards, according to the terms of the contracts.

The parts of the beef to be excluded from the barrel will be particularly designated in the engravings to be attached to the contracts. Persons interested can obtain them on application at this office.

July 30—td

OFFICE OF COMMISSARY GENERAL OF SUBSISTENCE,
Washington, July 1st, 1840.

SEPARATE proposals will be received at this office until the first day of October next, for the delivery of provisions in bulk for the use of the troops of the United States, upon inspection, as follows:

At New Orleans.

- 100 barrels of Pork
- 200 barrels of fresh superfine Flour
- 90 bushels of new white field Beans
- 1,500 pounds of good hard Soap
- 40 bushels of good clean dry Salt

At the public landing, six miles from Fort Towson mouth of the Chienmichi.

- 400 barrels of Pork
- 800 barrels of fresh superfine Flour
- 360 bushels of new white field Beans
- 6,000 pounds of good hard Soap
- 160 bushels of good clean dry Salt

The whole to be delivered in all the month of April, 1841, and to leave Natchitoches by the 20th February, 1841.

At Fort Smith, Arkansas.

- 1,000 barrels of Pork
- 2,000 barrels of fresh superfine Flour
- 900 bushels of new white field Beans
- 15,000 pounds of good hard Soap
- 400 bushels of good clean dry Salt

The whole to be delivered in all the month of May, 1841.

At St. Louis, or Jefferson Barracks, Missouri.

- 500 barrels of Pork
- 1,000 barrels of fresh superfine Flour
- 450 bushels of new white field Beans
- 7,500 pounds of good hard Soap
- 200 bushels of good clean dry Salt

At Fort Crawford, Prairie du Chien, Mississippi river.

- 200 barrels of Pork
- 400 barrels of fresh superfine Flour
- 180 bushels of new white field Beans
- 3,000 pounds of good hard Soap
- 2,000 pounds of good hard tallow Candles
- 80 bushels of good clean dry Salt

The whole to be delivered by the 1st of June, 1841.

At Fort Snelling, St. Peters.

- 400 barrels of Pork
- 800 barrels of fresh superfine Flour
- 360 bushels of new white field Beans
- 6,000 pounds of good hard Soap
- 1,000 pounds of good hard tallow Candles
- 160 bushels of good clean dry Salt

The whole to be delivered by the 15th of June, 1841.

At Fort Winnebago, on Fox river, at the portage of Fox and Wisconsin rivers.

- 300 barrels of Pork
- 600 barrels of fresh superfine Flour
- 270 bushels of new white field Beans
- 4,500 pounds of good hard Soap
- 3,000 pounds of good hard tallow Candles
- 120 bushels of good clean dry Salt

The whole to be delivered by the first of June, 1841.

At Fort Howard, Green Bay

- 200 barrels of Pork
- 400 barrels of fresh superfine Flour
- 180 bushels of new white Beans
- 3,000 pounds of good hard Soap
- 2,000 pounds of good hard tallow Candles
- 80 bushels of good clean dry Salt

The whole to be delivered by the first of June, 1841.

At Fort Brady, Sault de Ste. Marie.

- 100 barrels of Pork
- 200 barrels of fresh superfine Flour
- 90 bushels of new white field Beans
- 1,500 pounds of good hard Soap
- 1,000 pounds of good hard tallow Candles
- 40 bushels of good clean dry Salt

The whole to be delivered by the first of June, 1841.

At Hancock Barracks, Houlton, Maine.

- 400 barrels of Pork
- 800 barrels of fresh superfine flour
- 360 bushels of new white field Beans
- 6,000 pounds of good hard Soap
- 4,000 pounds of good hard tallow Candles
- 160 bushels of good clean dry Salt

The whole to be delivered in December, 1840, and January and February, 1841.

At New York.

- 400 barrels of Pork
- 800 barrels of fresh superfine Flour
- 330 bushels of new white field Beans
- 6,000 pounds of good hard Soap
- 160 bushels of good clean dry Salt

At Baltimore.

- 200 barrels of Pork
- 400 barrels of fresh superfine Flour
- 180 bushels of new white field Beans
- 3,000 pounds of good hard Soap
- 80 bushels of good clean dry Salt

NOTE.—All bidders are requested to extend the amount of their bids for each article, and exhibit the total amount of each bid.

The periods and quantities of each delivery at those posts where they are not specified, will be one-fourth 1st June, 1st September, 1st December, 1841, and 1st March, 1842.

The hogs of which the pork is packed, to be fattened on corn, and each hog to weigh not less than two hundred pounds, and consist of one hog to each barrel, excluding the feet, legs, ears and snout. Side pieces may be substituted for the hams. The Pork is to be first salted with Turks Island salt, and then carefully packed with the same article, in pieces not exceeding ten pounds each. When the packing has been completed, the contractor must furnish to this office a certificate from the packer, that the Pork has been so salted and packed. The Pork to be contained in seasoned heart of white oak or white ash barrels, full hooped; the Beans in water-tight barrels, and the Soap and Candles in strong boxes of convenient size for transportation. Salt will only be received by measurement of thirty-two quarts to the bushel. The Candles to have cotton wicks. The provisions for Prairie du Chien and St. Peters, must pass St. Louis for their ultimate destination, by the 15th of April, 1841. A failure in this particular will be considered a breach of contract, and the Department will be authorized to purchase to supply these posts.

The provisions will be inspected at the time and place of delivery, and all expenses to be paid by contractors until they are deposited at such store-houses as may be designated by the agents of the Department.

The Commissary General reserves the privilege of increasing or diminishing the quantities, or of dispensing with one or more articles, at any time before entering into contract, and also of increasing or reducing the quantities of each delivery one-third, subsequent to contract, on giving sixty days previous notice.

Bidders, not heretofore contractors, are required to accompany their proposals with evidence of their ability, together with the names of their sureties, whose responsibility must be certified by the District Attorney, or by some person well known to the Government, otherwise their proposals will not be acted on.

Advances cannot be made in any case; and evidence of inspection and full delivery will be required at this office before requisition will be made upon the Treasury for payment, which will be effected in such public money as may be convenient to the points of delivery, the places of purchase, or the residence of the contractors.

No drafts on this office will be accepted or paid under any circumstances.

Each proposal will be sealed in a separate envelope, and marked "Proposals for furnishing Army Subsistence."

GEO. GIBSON, C. G. S.

July 9—1 Sept. 20

MILITARY AND NAVAL ORNAMENTS.

B. DELAPIERRE, Importer and Manufacturer of Military and Naval Ornaments, and embroiderer in gold and silver, 90 Fulton street, New York, begs leave to tender his services to the Officers of the Army and Navy, in the line of his profession. Epaulettes, and other ornaments, are there to be had of the best kind, and most substantial workmanship.

B. D. has imported from the most celebrated military clothing establishments in London, a small lot of the identical blue Silk Velvet, used in the British service for the corps of Topographical Engineers, a sample of which is deposited in the clothing-bureau at Washington, and has been approved of by the chief of the corps.

May 21—14

SEMAPHORIC TELEGRAPH.

Just received, and for sale at the office of the Army and Navy Chronicle,

JOHN R. PARKER'S SEMAPHORIC TELEGRAPH SIGNAL BOOK and UNITED STATES TELEGRAPH VOCABULARY, in Three Parts; containing,

The Marine Telegraph and Holyhead systems of conversation, adapted to the use of the Semaphoric Telegraph, embracing 30,000 words, phrases and sentences, numerically arranged for conversation between vessels at sea, as well as communications on shore;

The Marine Telegraph Register, of 2,000 vessels which have adopted the Semaphoric system of communication with the Marine Telegraph flags.

Sets of flags, with a designating number and Signal Book, supplied by

B. HOMANS,

Agent for the Proprietor.

ARMY, NAVY, AND MARINE UNIFORMS.

JOHN SMITH, (late of West Point,) would respectfully inform the officers of the army and navy, that he is now enabled to furnish to the different corps their uniform complete, all made of the best materials, and forwarded with despatch.

To prevent errors, the Legislature of New York has authorized him to change his name to JOHN S. FRASER; therefore all letters hereafter will be addressed to

JOHN S. FRASER,

March 5—41

168 Pearl street, New York.

OFFICIAL NAVAL REGISTER, FOR 1840.—A few copies for sale at this office.

Ap. 2